Welcome to the Chaplain’s Corner newsletter. If you have a joy or concern you’d like to share with our staff, send an e-mail or give us a call at Ext. 8348. We only share concerns with the campus community, via newsletter or e-mail, with permission. You can view previous and current issues of our newsletter (in PDF format), on the Spiritual Life page of the Lynchburg College website—www.lynchburg.edu/spirituallife.

Congrats

- Courtney Kelsey (Residence Life) and her husband Mike on the birth of their new baby daughter. Sydney Lynn was born on October 22nd. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and is 19 1/4 inches long.

Happy Halloween

Sydney Lynn Kelsey

Dare To Ask

Wednesday I popped this question to the students I work with—How many books, not including books for your classes, are you reading right now? The responses were varied. A few said none, but more said three or more. I am reading eight. True, a few of them I am reading through the lens “I wonder if this might help _______ understand __________”, but many more are just for me.

I developed a love for reading as a youngster. Once I figured out that lines and shapes were letters, and then discovered forming the letters into patterns meant words, my world exploded. Words sparked my imagination and my dreams. I had this innate ability to enter stories in a host of roles and explore worlds unbridled by modern decorum. It also meant I questioned reality. I would be wealthy… I mean name-on-a-building or endow-a-scholarship kind of wealthy, if I had a nickel for every time I have asked why or why not. My vivid and seemingly limitless imagination has awarded me more spankings (physical and verbal) and more letters (formal and informal) of exclusion than the average human. It has also birthed many things. I bring my audacity to question into my spiritual life, and consequently into my life at Lynchburg College.

Questions such as:

- A culturally diverse community with intentionally diverse worship leadership? Why not?
- Implementing a fusion of Protestant worship cultures? Why not?
- Using only one translation of scripture? Why?
- Excluding pop culture references from worship? Why?
- Worship must occur in one format. Why? Using technology in Sunday’s services? Why not?

If I cannot determine the theological why, I am not doing it, saying it, playing it or leading it. But once I become rooted in the why, orthodoxy and convention are mere obstacles to hurdle if they stand in opposition to the theological why (I told you I would be wealthy 😃). Vision and asking “why not” birthed the InFaith services held on campus. Led by students, the InFaith Community gathers on Sundays at 3 p.m. for a time of creative and intentionally designed worship which reflects a fusion of protestant church cultures. The venue moves from Sydnor to the Chapel reminding us that long before buildings people gathered in tents for times of worship.

I invite you to join us. Come and explore what it means to worship with a diverse community. Come and be amazed at how different a service can look, yet God still is present and the Spirit moves. Come and be reminded of our connection with one another as world citizens.

Come and dare to ask why…or why not.

By Rev. Katrina Stipe Brooks
Campus Pastor and InFaith Community Senior Pastor

Chaplain’s Corner

Volume 9, No. 13
October 29, 2014

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

For a list of our regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year, go to the Spiritual Life webpage and click on “Spiritual Organizations on Campus.”